

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Taxable retail sales decline for second straight quarter

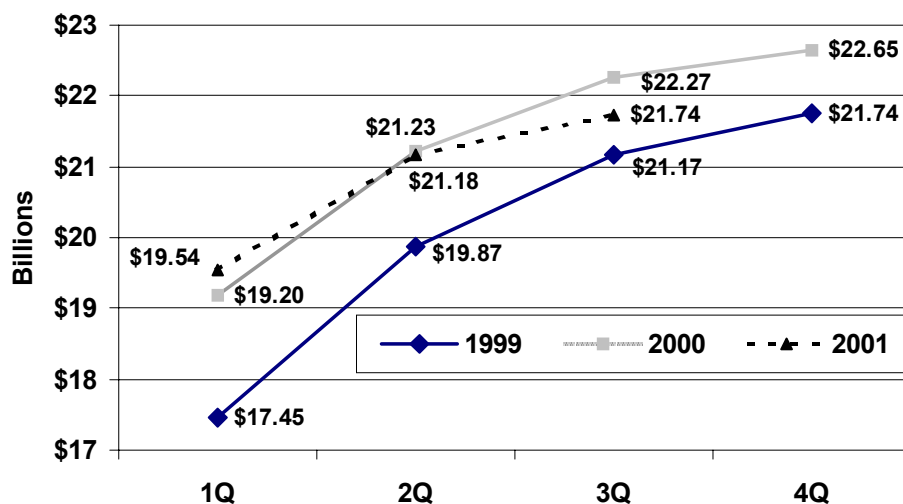
OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 31, 2002—Taxable retail sales reported by Washington businesses declined 1.89 percent during the third quarter of 2001, according to figures posted today on the Department of Revenue's web site.

Taxable retail sales totaled \$21.74 billion, down \$420 million from \$22.16 billion for the third quarter of 2000. The third quarter reflects business activity from June through September. This was the second consecutive quarter of declines after six years of quarter-over-quarter gains.

Sales increased in 20 counties and declined in 19 others. The retail trade sector, which best reflects consumer purchases, showed a similar pattern, with 23 counties up and 16 down.

Klickitat County saw overall taxable retail sales rise the most, with an 85 percent gain. However, this may be largely due to taxes from construction activity, as retail trade declined 1.4 percent. Columbia County

Taxable Retail Sales



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dropped 18 percent in overall taxable retail sales, although retail trade was up 2.2 percent. King County experienced a 7.2 percent drop in overall sales and a 4.1 percent decline in retail trade.

Taxable retail sales dropped in 24 of 50 selected cities, while 29 cities experienced a decline in retail trade. Richland experienced the greatest gain with a 19.4 percent increase overall and a 9 percent increase in retail trade. Redmond declined the most, at 18.9 percent in overall taxable retail sales although retail trade was down only 8.3 percent. Seattle, the state's largest city, experienced a 6.6 percent drop in overall sales and a 6.4 percent decline in retail trade.

A list of taxable retail sales by county and selected cities is available on the Department of Revenue's web site at <http://dor.wa.gov>. Select quarterly business reviews under the statistical reports page, or go directly to <http://dor.wa.gov/menu/reports/qbr.htm?noframes>. Overall taxable retail sales for all incorporated cities is available at <http://dor.wa.gov/reports/lst/allq301.htm?noframes>. Users also can build a table showing a detailed breakdown of taxable activity by city at http://dor.wa.gov/reports/qbrSearch/QBR_Data.htm.

Gross business income by industry will be added to the web site as it becomes available.

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TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY COUNTY

All Taxable Retail Sales*

Retail Trade Only**

(\$000) add three digits to all figures

	3rd Quarter 00	3rd Quarter 01	Change	3rd Quarter 00	3rd Quarter 01	Change
Adams	\$45,871	\$43,288	-5.6%	\$13,282	\$16,428	23.7%
Asotin	\$39,905	\$40,298	1.0%	\$23,954	\$24,085	0.5%
Benton	\$404,861	\$453,655	12.1%	\$244,455	\$259,928	6.3%
Chelan	\$265,606	\$265,356	-0.1%	\$136,086	\$135,447	-0.5%
Clallam	\$183,752	\$190,849	3.9%	\$103,449	\$105,521	2.0%
Clark	\$831,730	\$870,702	4.7%	\$400,048	\$416,072	4.0%
Columbia	\$7,860	\$6,444	-18.0%	\$1,971	\$2,013	2.2%
Cowlitz	\$268,027	\$276,977	3.3%	\$146,643	\$140,887	-3.9%
Douglas	\$72,066	\$74,205	3.0%	\$40,616	\$40,875	0.6%
Ferry	\$8,165	\$11,309	38.5%	\$3,536	\$3,541	0.2%
Franklin	\$168,817	\$172,431	2.1%	\$76,746	\$74,982	-2.3%
Garfield	\$4,485	\$4,537	1.2%	\$1,440	\$1,649	14.5%
Grant	\$193,351	\$217,322	12.4%	\$94,753	\$92,108	-2.8%
Grays Harbor	\$193,300	\$179,215	-7.3%	\$98,788	\$95,126	-3.7%
Island	\$151,071	\$144,546	-4.3%	\$67,081	\$66,336	-1.1%
Jefferson	\$76,837	\$74,918	-2.5%	\$31,470	\$32,446	3.1%
King	\$9,706,623	\$9,010,586	-7.2%	\$4,315,522	\$4,134,052	-4.2%
Kitsap	\$619,984	\$650,767	5.0%	\$387,876	\$410,546	5.8%
Kittitas	\$107,191	\$104,803	-2.2%	\$51,289	\$52,610	2.6%
Klickitat	\$36,852	\$68,162	85.0%	\$10,779	\$10,632	-1.4%
Lewis	\$255,941	\$248,351	-3.0%	\$126,232	\$118,473	-6.1%
Lincoln	\$20,635	\$18,266	-11.5%	\$6,819	\$6,619	-2.9%
Mason	\$91,629	\$90,494	-1.2%	\$47,910	\$48,130	0.5%
Okanagan	\$88,001	\$90,236	2.5%	\$46,522	\$47,100	1.2%
Pacific	\$43,908	\$44,318	0.9%	\$20,739	\$20,821	0.4%
Pend Oreille	\$14,962	\$13,697	-8.5%	\$5,990	\$6,041	0.8%
Pierce	\$2,141,705	\$2,195,670	2.5%	\$1,179,271	\$1,209,513	2.6%
San Juan	\$91,806	\$90,209	-1.7%	\$32,760	\$30,463	-7.0%
Skagit	\$439,802	\$463,304	5.3%	\$269,915	\$280,740	4.0%
Skamania	\$17,379	\$17,819	2.5%	\$3,532	\$3,339	-5.5%
Snohomish	\$2,016,793	\$1,993,545	-1.2%	\$1,101,043	\$1,099,062	-0.2%
Spokane	\$1,482,107	\$1,455,511	-1.8%	\$779,366	\$781,811	0.3%
Stevens	\$60,777	\$63,351	4.2%	\$32,275	\$32,423	0.5%
Thurston	\$656,115	\$687,322	4.8%	\$369,639	\$381,714	3.3%
Wahkiakum	\$4,589	\$6,857	49.4%	\$1,559	\$1,530	-1.8%
Walla Walla	\$134,590	\$129,097	-4.1%	\$59,089	\$61,608	4.3%
Whatcom	\$570,403	\$546,423	-4.2%	\$304,324	\$303,591	-0.2%
Whitman	\$89,458	\$83,586	-6.6%	\$36,255	\$36,993	2.0%
Yakima	\$551,683	\$549,108	-0.5%	\$302,636	\$291,431	-3.7%
TOTALS***	\$22,158,637	\$21,647,534	-2.3%	\$10,975,660	\$10,876,686	-0.9%

*All taxable retail sales includes retailing, services, contracting (construction), manufacturing, transportation, communications, utilities, wholesaling, finance, insurance, real estate and others. Sales taxes from contracting can be highly volatile.

**Retail Trade includes taxable sales of building materials and hardware, general merchandise, food, auto dealers, apparel, furnishings, eating/drinking places, and miscellaneous retail stores. This figure better represents consumer purchases.

*** Statewide totals and percentage changes noted in press release do not equal county results due to the inclusion of business activity that cannot be attributed to a specific county

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TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY SELECTED CITIES

	All Taxable Retail Sales*			Retail Trade Only**		
	(\$000) add three digits to all figures					
	3rd Quarter 00	3rd Quarter 01	Change	3rd Quarter 00	3rd Quarter 01	Change
Aberdeen	\$87,300	\$84,631	-3.1%	\$60,185	\$59,302	-1.5%
Auburn	350,440	\$357,592	2.0%	\$188,561	\$197,686	4.8%
Bellevue	1,195,563	\$1,023,563	-14.4%	\$607,108	\$554,936	-8.6%
Bellingham	390,705	\$379,100	-3.0%	\$229,437	\$232,367	1.3%
Bremerton	145,258	\$153,714	5.8%	\$95,861	\$100,464	4.8%
Camas	34,790	\$34,508	-0.8%	\$9,993	\$9,432	-5.6%
Centralia	62,646	\$58,923	-5.9%	\$37,655	\$36,006	-4.4%
Chehalis	70,306	\$70,761	0.6%	\$49,499	\$49,598	0.2%
Colville	33,096	\$34,629	4.6%	\$22,125	\$22,615	2.2%
Des Moines	42,499	\$45,415	6.9%	\$23,146	\$22,365	-3.4%
Edmonds	129,574	\$117,747	-9.1%	\$77,889	\$72,583	-6.8%
Ellensburg	65,152	\$67,248	3.2%	\$35,843	\$37,659	5.1%
Everett	556,061	\$524,371	-5.7%	\$301,981	\$285,875	-5.3%
Federal Way	295,020	\$297,332	0.8%	\$196,770	\$186,765	-5.1%
Fife	138,551	\$148,087	6.9%	\$78,687	\$90,175	14.6%
Issaquah	227,970	\$253,279	11.1%	\$142,188	\$149,359	5.0%
Kelso	52,059	\$49,770	-4.4%	\$35,954	\$31,621	-12.1%
Kennewick	251,607	\$273,160	8.6%	\$173,161	\$183,706	6.1%
Kent	572,804	\$554,193	-3.2%	\$209,488	\$200,730	-4.2%
Kirkland	379,651	\$341,300	-10.1%	\$205,196	\$193,320	-5.8%
Lacey	118,742	\$123,006	3.6%	\$66,556	\$76,392	14.8%
Longview	144,133	\$147,480	2.3%	\$83,350	\$81,160	-2.6%
Lynnwood	427,389	\$425,424	-0.5%	\$305,214	\$292,502	-4.2%
Marysville	99,480	\$97,934	-1.6%	\$53,268	\$54,775	2.8%
Mercer Island	71,370	\$71,361	0.0%	\$14,317	\$12,265	-14.3%
Moses Lake	98,367	\$100,030	1.7%	\$57,923	\$58,041	0.2%
Mount Vernon	108,761	\$109,519	0.7%	\$73,533	\$71,411	-2.9%
Mountlake Terrace	34,737	\$40,749	17.3%	\$14,194	\$13,309	-6.2%
Oak Harbor	64,636	\$60,673	-6.1%	\$40,249	\$39,706	-1.4%
Olympia	355,030	\$362,737	2.2%	\$218,918	\$219,984	0.5%
Omak	25,752	\$25,830	0.3%	\$18,944	\$19,312	1.9%
Pasco	150,214	\$153,297	2.1%	\$72,989	\$71,653	-1.8%
Port Angeles	69,931	\$70,822	1.3%	\$38,069	\$39,382	3.4%
Port Townsend	36,923	\$38,180	3.4%	\$20,272	\$20,002	-1.3%
Pullman	63,913	\$59,056	-7.6%	\$28,253	\$28,886	2.2%
Puyallup	341,766	\$337,850	-1.1%	\$238,720	\$257,499	7.9%
Redmond	504,141	\$408,842	-18.9%	\$179,894	\$164,991	-8.3%
Renton	451,435	\$422,814	-6.3%	\$260,088	\$235,008	-9.6%
Richland	110,941	\$132,506	19.4%	\$55,186	\$60,150	9.0%
SeaTac	249,472	\$238,007	-4.6%	\$43,797	\$48,453	10.6%
Seattle	3,505,213	\$3,272,348	-6.6%	\$1,412,220	\$1,321,406	-6.4%
Shelton	42,718	\$41,447	-3.0%	\$28,191	\$26,973	-4.3%
Spokane	834,972	\$789,168	-5.5%	\$438,536	\$414,401	-5.5%
Sunnyside	52,425	\$49,315	-5.9%	\$31,978	\$32,283	1.0%
Tacoma	878,422	\$881,273	0.3%	\$489,086	\$482,616	-1.3%
Tukwila	533,601	\$453,413	-15.0%	\$298,342	\$296,745	-0.5%
Vancouver	480,097	\$487,273	1.5%	\$250,200	\$247,034	-1.3%
Walla Walla	101,351	\$100,808	-0.5%	\$52,883	\$51,308	-3.0%
Wenatchee	143,386	\$144,170	0.5%	\$83,433	\$83,472	0.0%
Yakima	294,029	\$300,924	2.3%	\$171,592	\$163,567	-4.7%

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